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## **TALIBAN ECONOMY CONFERENCE IN KABUL STRESSES NEED FOR FUNDS**

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AP News (19 January 2022)

Kathy Gannon

Five months into their rule of Afghanistan, the Taliban have increased revenue, cracked down on corruption and collected a surprising \$1 billion in exports, the U.N. representative for the country said Wednesday.

At the same time, Deborah Lyons, head of the U.N. Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, stressed the need for the Taliban to be inclusive and guarantee the rights of minorities and women. An economy thrives only when women and all segments of a society are equal participants, she cautioned.

Lyons spoke at a one-day economic conference organized by the Taliban – their first such event, held at a time when Afghanistan teeters on the verge of a humanitarian catastrophe and economic collapse.

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